

Washington, DC (May 31, 2012) – The 2012 Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1, and as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) is encouraging individuals, local governments, and businesses to be prepared in advance of a devastating weather event.

"We all have a role to play in preparedness. Put together an emergency kit, develop a family plan, and encourage others to prepare. Taking those steps now can make a huge difference should disaster strike," Bilirakis said. "While NOAA predicts a 'near normal' hurricane season, there have already been two named storms before the season has even started."

For more information about the best ways to prepare and for important contact information, [click here](#)

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"The federal government is working with state and local emergency management officials, first responders, and non-profit partners to make sure all are prepared," Bilirakis said. "The private sector also plays a vital role by preparing their businesses for storms and often donating goods and services to response and relief efforts."

Bilirakis has also introduced legislation to offer tax incentives for property improvements that would protect from hurricane or tornado damage. The bill, H.R. 2067, would provide a tax credit of 25 percent of qualified hurricane and tornado mitigation property expenditures up to \$5,000 for any taxable year.